

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 251

With which is incorporated
The International Socialist Review for Australasia.

SYDNEY: FEBRUARY 13, 1915.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney
for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

PRICE, ONE PENNY

The Passing Show.

The mad beast of militarism is sinking his fangs deep into Australia.

Labor Governments have no time now for anything but war.

Men, and still more men, are wanted for the war—for destruction instead of production.

Powerful newspapers, politicians, and the paid hirelings of capitalism—blood-sucking snobs of the bulldog breed—are screaming for other fellows to go to the front.

Every atom of militant energy of the socialist movement is required to check the growth of Australia's mad militarism.

There must be no compromise with militarism.

There is no room in the same world for militarism and Socialism.

When one rises the other falls. Militarism is a monster that will destroy society if it is not itself destroyed.

There can be no such thing as a "democratic army" or a "citizen army."

Autocracy is the only foundation of efficient organisation for killing.

In time of war, the power of life and death is confided to a military clique. All rights and liberties are in the keeping of pets of armament rings and ruling exploiters.

To foster the growth of militarism, the capitalist press is making the epauletted snob a social hero and the boneheaded working man his willing tool.

Our ruling robbers are training our little boys to worship death, destruction, and arbitrary authority.

Church parades are organised for the worship of a tribal Jehovah who was pleased when his chosen people slew all the males of the other tribes and devoted the young women to an orgy of lust.

Everything is now being encouraged that will breed and foster hatred of other races and peoples.

The grand aim of the press, the pulpit, and the Parliament of this country now is to spread abroad an insane egotism, lying, deceit and treachery are becoming universal.

Our women must become mere breeders of soldiers and factory slaves, under complete militarism.

Whoever defends any form of militarism, and arming and organisation for wholesale killing, defends the most damnable feature of capitalism. He can have no part in the Socialist movement.

Whoever would strike a blow at this monster that has reddened the history of mankind with blood, and has plunged the world into a gory carnival of death, must work with the Socialists.

The so-called Labor Party of Australia has run its course more quickly than some of us expected. It is now safe in the net of the Imperial War Trust.

Wade, the senior Liberal wrangler of N.S.W. State Parliament, is averse to running a Lib. candidate for the seat left vacant by the late Minister for lands. The difference between the Libs. and the Labs. is really not worth fighting about.

The Federal Labor Government is standing as much on war as would keep the unemployed in comfort. Meanwhile, Ministers tell unemployed deputations that they can do nothing for them.

In the Wharf Labourers' case last week, the secretary of the Union, tried some



After the war many monuments will doubtless be erected to the memory of dead soldiers, but something like the above should be erected over the graves of countless numbers who die prematurely in that other war.

patriotic gaff on Mr. Justice Street, which that gentleman promptly and properly appraised at its true value. The patriotic wharves, Woods said, refused to work with foreign-born workers, because they feared the latter might take advantage of their opportunities to damage the property of loyal and patriotic people. This was too low down even for a Capitalist Court.

"What, then, is the use of spending at Canberra good money, when the army of stalwart day labourers there might with advantage to the Empire be required to serve in Egypt, or on the battle-front in France and Belgium?"—Brisbane "Daily Mail." How airily the capitalist journalist, urges that the stalwart worker be sent to the front!

"Liberalism has never been very far from the side of the working man."—Joe Cook. Close to his breeches pocket, in fact.

In response to the loud and vigorous urging of the Labor Leagues to do something, the Holman Labor Government has introduced a bill to regulate the beer industry. When this great national matter has been dealt with, Mr. Holman will probably proceed to deal with other matters not on the Party's platform.

The army of unemployed is steadily increasing in Victoria. Meanwhile, the Peacock Government is rushing immigrants in with feverish haste. The object is obvious.

A Labor P.M.G., having succeeded a Liberal P.M.G., the Post Office jogs along in the same old way. About the same number of "Internationals" are never delivered, and the same number of disappointed readers are writing in, telling us of their loss.

Carmichael, N.S.W. Labor Minister for Education, was referred to the other day by a London daily as "Lord Carmichael, Governor of N.S.W." The way he bumbled about in London must have created the impression that he was either a Lord, a Duke, or some other big pot. You cannot beat the Labor member for putting on dawg.

The N.S.W. Wages Board for restaurants, tea rooms, and oyster saloons delivered an award the other day for the Sydney metropolitan area, and waitresses found their screws reduced from 17s. 6d. to 13s., and from 16s. 6d. to 12s. per week. Cooks in cheap restaurants were reduced from £2 to £1 15s. And so on. Arbitration was one of the palliatives the Labor Party designed to prevent strikes and settle industrial troubles. Now it is working unexpectedly. Judge Heydon decided recently that owing to the war the Boards should not grant increases of wages. It

seems, however, that he didn't bar decreases.

Woodbridge Political Labour League is against Premier Holman's proposed visit to London. Members have resolved to ask him to stay here and mind his own business, or resign from the movement. They don't know that Willie is not their servant, but must go before his real masters—the London financiers—now and then for instructions.

Fifty unions in N.S.W. have condemned the prevailing system of selecting parliamentary candidates. They don't like such results as Holman, Griffiths, Carmichael, and other hot-air artists.

The press told a strong story about the sinking of the German warship *Blucher*. When that vessel was sunk the British warships, we are told, threw hundreds of planks overboard to the drowning Germans. Seeing that a warship cleared for action is divested of all superfluous woodwork, it would be hard for the pressmen to explain where the planks were obtained, unless we are to believe that every British warship has to carry such planks for life-saving purposes.

"I have had the opportunity of discussing matters generally with the Governor of New Zealand, Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister, Mr. Massey, who met me at Auckland, Sir Joseph Ward, who met me at Wellington, and many others. Andy Fisher. The "many others" includes such small fry as the Labor leaders.

"Members of rifle clubs are to be permitted to practice rifle shooting on Sundays for military purposes."—News Item. Up, parsons, and at 'em.

A war cable stated last week that the forest of Nonnebruch had been stubbornly contested owing to its containing deposits of potassium salts valued at sixty millions of francs. These deposits were hitherto in the hands of German capitalists, and the boneheads of France and Germany slaughtered each other in hundreds to decide whether German or French capitalists should own the deposits in future.

Joe Cook, replying last week to Billy Hughes, stated that Liberalism is not defunct, but waiting for its turn in office. Joe's brief sojourn in the "tart shop" only served to whet his appetite for more of the sweets.

"Until his return to Melbourne, the Federal Attorney-General will be unable to announce the Government's intentions regarding the probable establishment of new industries employing large numbers of men."—A press item published in Sydney "Daily Telegraph" as fodder for Melbourne unemployed. Little Billie appears

to regard chaff as the natural food of Laborites.

Life without toil and leisure without loading is the ideal of Socialism.

The Federal Cabinet has announced that Dr. Gilruth will henceforth be Administrator of the Northern Territory in reality, and not in name only, as hitherto. He has been drawing the screw in "reality" all the time.

Apologising for the introduction of an Amending Arbitration Act in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly, Premier Holman said that "if the House could be made aware of information that had been reported to Cabinet, it would look differently upon any action the Government might take to meet industrial unrest." Something too ominous to be made public, something like a French Revolution must be brewing at the Trades Hall.

Mr. Justice Street has issued an interim injunction restraining the Sydney Wharf Labourers' Union from interfering with naturalised British subjects on the wharves until the hearing of a case for damages, which is pending.

A Great Australian Enterprise was the heading placed over a picture of the new Iron and Steel Works, Port Waratah, by Sydney "Daily Telegraph." In another column we were told that the experts, etc., employed, were Americans, and when, in addition, we know that the Co. is Yankee to the core, the "Telegraph's" little fib may be duly appreciated. The "Telegraph" should have said "A Great American Enterprise," or a "Great Project of the Steel Trust."

An opinion has been expressed by Premier Fisher that a perambulating system of government for Australia would be a good thing. It certainly would be a good thing for Labor ministers who wanted to dodge the unemployed and other troublesome persons. When Melbourne got too hot, the Government could move to Sydney. When Sydney Laborites woke up, the Government could clear to Brisbane or Perth. If the worst came, they could hide in the Jenolan Caves.

The Australian "Worker" lately moved from Bathurst-street to St. Andrew's Place, Sydney. St. Andrew's, somehow, seems a suitable place for the headquarters of Andrew Fisher's followers.

The men who throw up steady jobs and go to the war will probably receive a shock if they ever return. As fast as they go out cheap immigrants are introduced to fill their places. When the fighters return they will find cheaper labour strongly entrenched on the industrial battlefield.

At the Labor reception in Wellington, Andy Fisher said his visit to the Dominion had realised a wish of his heart that reciprocity in regard to old-age pensions between Australia and New Zealand was well within sight. At a reception tendered by the New Zealand Libs., Andy expressed pleasure that reciprocity in naval and military matters was being furthered by his visit. He drew cheers from both Libs. and Labs.

The Bull Political Labour League, at its last monthly meeting, discussed the high price of meat. The decision arrived at was that members should conform to the practices of other countries and learn to live on less meat and upon other and cheaper foods. This ought to suit the good, kind employer and food merchant. Learn to live on cheaper food, so that you will need less wages—that's the dope for the Mugs.

The war has cost the Federal Treasurer, so far, £537,828 11s. 7d., and there are signs that during the next few months the outlay will be considerably increased. The nob and military swashbucklers are just beginning to find that the purse strings of the Government are loose, and that coin is being poured out in a generous stream in the interests of the Empire, and they are hastening to get into a good thing.

Chorus:
But the howling of the jingos draweth near !
They are howling thus in chorus and in fear :-
" Got you ready, workers' sons,
Take your knapsacks and your guns,
Or the Empire will shortly disappear ! "

Capitalism Has Hypnotised Society.

By WILLIAM THURSTON BROWN.

(Continued.)

Is it really wrong to take what you have made, what you have produced? Would it be wrong for the working class of America to take possession of the wealth of America to-day, to-morrow, any time, without waiting for the enactment of laws permitting them to do so? Would it be wrong for the united working class of America to say to-day, to-morrow, any time: "Not a wheel shall move on any railroad, not a bit of machinery shall be run in any mill or factory or smelter, from the Atlantic to the Pacific from the lakes to the gulf, unless it is understood distinctly by the people of America that these tools of industry belong of right to the workers of the nation? And meanwhile, since hungry men and women and children must be fed, and since your charity organizations have recognised the fact and your churches have preached it, we shall take the food necessary for our sustenance until it is understood that this system of robbery is to stop forever."

Would that be wrong? Would it be any worse for the white slaves of to-day to break property laws for the sake of their own freedom—nay, for the sake of their own lives and the lives of their loved ones—than it was for black slaves to do it sixty years ago? Why is it that white wage-slaves to-day haven't the nerve or the manhood and womanhood which black chattel slaves had two generations ago? Because these white wage-slaves are hypnotized by the capitalist code of ethics. That is why. And it should not be difficult to discover some of the men who are keeping up or encouraging this hypnotizing process, who are trying to impose upon the working class by all their policies and teaching this fatal, morally and physically destructive code of capitalism. To act on that code of ethics means for the workers of the world starvation, misery, crime, shame, extermination. Workingmen and women, don't deceive yourselves into thinking that the capitalist class has any more care for you or your fate than they had for the "niggers" of the South. Not a particle. You may rot by inches, and the capitalist class, as a class, will do nothing for you, will care nothing for you. The only thing that will make any thinking person believe that you are human is the assertion, by deeds as well as words, and at any cost, of your own manhood and womanhood. When you are sufficiently aware of your slavery to prize your freedom above life itself, you will get it and all the world will sing your praises—and not till then.

To take what they have produced, to enjoy the fruits of their labour, is as natural for the working class as any function of the body is natural. It is the only ethics Labor has: To the laborer his product. But Labor doesn't touch it, will rather die than touch it. And perhaps if some portion of the working class—the Industrial Workers, for example—should proceed to take possession of its own, another portion of the working class—that portion of it which accepts in any degree the ethics of capitalism—would obey the command of their heartless, soulless masters and shoot down their brother-workers for doing the one thing which distinguishes them as human beings, and not whipped curs or cattle.

The working class is hypnotized. It is absolutely imperative that the spell of this hypnotism be broken. And it neither can nor will be broken without direct action. A good many are saying: "Be careful. Don't call the patient out of his sleep too soon. Better do it gradually. Wake him up a little at a time. Take the spell off from his toes, say, but above all things don't remove it from his brain or his hands, for he might actually begin to take what belongs to him." Meanwhile, the longer he remains under the spell, the harder it is to break it at all. Hypnotism is fatal if prolonged beyond certain limits. It may be exactly so with the moral and ethical hypnotism of the working class.

Others are saying: "The capitalist system has been created by law. We must get possession of the law-making power, undo these legal mistakes, and entrust to our lawyers—these parasites of parasites—the task of framing laws which shall transfer to the working class what is their own. And all this in spite of the fact that right now the impossibility of getting legal redress for the poor man is confessed by the President himself. Whence comes this advice? From capitalist morals, capitalistic ethics. It is only another species of the same old hypnotism which Magician Capitalism has been exercising over the workers for generations.

But how about the ethics of Jesus? How about the ethical and moral teaching which your inspired and infallible priests and bishops and preachers and Bible offer you? Are not these—the highest, sacredest code in the world? Have they not a divine sanction? Must not the working class accept and act upon these ethical precepts without question? Indeed, is it not blasphemous for any one to question these? And while the church to-day cannot burn or hang or torture on the rack any one who questions these ancient codes, as it used to do so industriously, is it not fortunate that it can at least brand men with bad names and do its utmost to starve them into submission?

What is this ancient code of ethics which is urged upon the working class in the name of religion? If Jesus is correctly reported, he said:

"If a man smite you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If a man take away your overcoat, give him your undercoat, too." In a word, be submissive. Don't resist. And Paul, the real founder of the Christian Church, said: "Slaves, obey your masters, for this is said: 'Slaves, obey your masters, for this is said: 'Submit yourselves to those in authority: over you, for the powers that be are ordained of God.' Here is at least a part of the ethics of the New Testament, of those who are regarded as the founders of the Christian Church.

Listen for a moment. For hundreds and hundreds of years we human beings have been looking at everything in the world through colored glass. We have been seeing everything through eyes of ignorance. We have

been occupying, in our whole conception of life, a standpoint which is no longer morally or ethically tolerable. Not even yet has any considerable part of the world dared or tried to think of Jesus or his teaching without bias or in the light of present-day knowledge. We have been just as much hypnotized in our thought of religion or of the ethics of Jesus as we have in our thought of capitalism. The whole world has thought of Jesus and his teaching from the standpoint of an individualism which is now proven sterile and useless and false. Those who have professed in our thought of religion or of the ethics of Jesus final and correct have been totally ignorant of the central fact of modern sociological knowledge: The class struggle. The class struggle means that life is not static, but evolving, and that it goes forward and upward only through the struggle and triumph of the working class. To the bar of that sociological law must every ethical principle be brought. The question which determines our acceptance or our rejection of any ethical precept, no matter whose name it bears—which determines also whether any given quality of character is to be considered "good" or "bad" by us—is this: Does this ethical precept or this moral quality help or hinder the triumph of the working class? Life for us means warfare, means struggle. What are the conditions of triumph in this struggle? Absolutely the only hope of society lies in the universal dominance of the working class, lies in the utter abolition of capitalism, root and branch, and the establishment of the Industrial Commonwealth of the Workers.

Capitalism is parasitism, and parasitism is moral decay and material calamity. There are no "good" capitalists, any more than there are "good" tuberculosis microbes. There are no "good" qualities of human character which do not contribute to the end of human freedom, of working class victory.

And let me remind you that the capitalist class did not become the ruling class by following the precepts of Jesus or the ethics of the New Testament. And not one step forward or upward in civilization, not one step toward better social or political conditions, was ever taken on that plan, or ever will be. The capitalist class everywhere and in every way repudiates the ethics of Christianity. Why? Because the ethics of Christianity is the ethics of slaves. The ethics of what is called Christianity arose in the minds of people who had abandoned all hope of freedom and believed the end of the world was near. Don't be too hasty in concluding, workingmen, that because the capitalist class has no use for the ethics of Christianity, therefore you should immediately pre-empt the whole thing and claim it as your own. The only kind of people who can adopt the ethics of Christianity honestly and fully are contented slaves. You have no more use for that code than capitalists have. It would not be right for any member of the capitalist class to practice the ethics of Jesus. It would be morally wrong for him to do so—and impossible. To make the attempt would simply be to leave the capitalist class. Why? Because every social epoch or other creates its own ethics, establishes its own standard of right and wrong, and the standard of some other epoch or order is invalid. Capitalism involves relations and obligations. Those relations and obligations are sacred, are fundamental. For a capitalist to attempt to put in practice the ethics of Jesus would be for him to defraud his own neighbors; his own family; his own trusted associates. Capitalists are right in saying that "business is business," by which they mean that business has nothing to do with Christian ethics or morals. But the ethics of Jesus would be just as wrong for you, members of the working class, as for capitalists. Why? Because life for all of us now is war without quarter, war for the total abolition of capitalism, and the practice of the Christian code would doom you to slavery.

But, you will say, the capitalist class nowhere opposes Christianity. That is quite true. On the contrary, that class supports it. Why? Because the only people who take Christian ethics seriously are the exploited classes. Christianity doesn't interfere with capitalism. It doesn't interfere with slavery. It never did. All the virtues it exalts are slave virtues. It preaches submission, meekness, contentment with suffering and hardship. Capitalists pay no attention to these ideas. They see at once that such ideas are not for them. And they see, as they have always seen, that as an agency for perpetuating the capitalist code of morals, Christianity as preached in the churches is a gilt-edged success. Indeed, it is one of the chief factors in the hypnotizing of wage-slaves. It is for this reason that there is nothing more important for the workers of the world to learn than the hard lesson, the unpleasant lesson, that Christianity is utterly impossible for them ever. Its ethics will not work.

In other words, the working class is just as much a distinct class as the capitalist class is. It is a different class. As different from the capitalist class as day is different from night. That means that the working class demands an ethic of its own, that it is just as imperative that the working class create its own civilisation, its own morals, ethics, religion, and industrial and economic order, as it was that the capitalist class should. That alone is right for the members of any class which serves the interests of that class as a whole. To-day, that alone is "right" which serves the interests of the ruling capitalist class, and that alone is regarded as "wrong" which defeats or injures the interests of the ruling class. That is the code of capitalism, and it has hypnotized all of us to a large extent. But a new class is bound to take the place of this decadent ruling class in the near future; the working class. And there is nothing that class needs so much to know as this: that for them and for every individual member of their class that alone is right which serves the interests of the working class, and that alone is wrong which defeats the interests of that class.

"The rights of man are a byword; the bones are not yet dust
Of those who broke the shackles and the shackles are not yet rust
Till the masters are forging new ones, and
Coward lips are sealed
While the code that cost a million lives is step by step repealed."

The wily world-enchantress is working her cursed charm,
The spell of the hypnotisers is laming us head and arm;

Woman's Position in the Industrial World.

By J. L.

I was just reading in the Herald a short report by a secretary of a Trade Union, in which he stated that women were being exploited in the factories and laundries, and that adult women were working for 12s. per week, the capitalist exploiters were taking advantage of expired awards, cessation of wages boards, etc., caused through the war.

What is woman's position in the industrial world to-day that corresponds in all its phases and details with the reasons why women are found in industry at all? It is not for want of love and affection on the part of fathers, mothers, and husbands. Not because the home comforts and enjoyments could not be added to if it were unnecessary for women to exhaust their energy away from home and children. No not from these reasons, but because the fathers, etc., have been robbed of their labor, so the women have to go forth to supplement the family income. Workers to-day with their meagre wages cannot keep the home as it should be kept, hence the girls and women are forced to respond to the capitalists' call to enter industry. Now men may fight, men slaughter each other, but for women he is full of fine phrases about the respect and consideration that should be shown to women, about the dignity of Motherhood etc. But how does he show this consideration? He would not hit a woman, oh no, but with callous indifference stands by and sees women and children suffer, wither and yield up labor or anything else that is involved in the maintenance of the present system. The rush, the pace, the concentration of mental and physical effort exhausting our girls and women, stunting their growth, robbing them of their physical strength, the fearful spread of certain ailments, so much so that the Race is threatened. Its work, work, every day, sick or well, the same pace, same monotony, year after year, that kills. "Slow Murder!" The anemic woman, made so by vile industrial conditions, has lost her blood and the power of regaining it, because it is sucked out to irrigate the roots of capitalism.

The position of woman should be what it will be under Socialism.

Certain pleasant duties and work, will fall to her and be readily undertaken. They will not, neither will they wish to be dolls. But the economic pressure will be removed which forces them into the factory barracks of industrialism. Machinery to-day is capable of producing material things in unlimited quantities, therefore the care and anxiety for food, clothing and shelter should cease. But notwithstanding this, women are forced to eke out an existence, so whether we like it or not, woman as a wage-earner is a wage-slave. The struggle is a class struggle, not a sex fight. We know she is forced into work, she is totally unfitted for, but as a competitor has to be reckoned with. But we know that evolution and development of society is having its effect upon woman; that she is passing through an evolution which will fit her for the new life of the future society. The Socialist Society is shaping its industrial framework within the present society, and in the industrial structure women are falling into place.

Socialism means economic freedom for woman. So it is the duty of every woman of the working class to educate herself, and help to educate her sister wage-slaves upon the great question of Socialism, the question that is agitating society to its very foundations. Rise women then and declare that the vultures shall no more feast upon your or your children's flesh, discuss, study, teach and join your husbands, brothers, and sons, in the Socialist movement that will bring peace and happiness on earth, carrying out the Mission of the working-class by taking hold and controlling the means of production for use and not for profit.

We weave the cloth, we raise the corn,
We delve the merry clay
We feed and clothe the haughty born,
But grind our lives away,
My brothers brave, my sisters fair,
Unclose your mental eyes,
The fruits of earth are yours to share
This Justice ever cries.

The wrong dissolves in a cloudbank of "whether" and "if" and "still."
And the subtleties of logic inhibit the sickly will.

The bitter lesson of patience I have practiced,
Lo! these years;
Can it be, what has passed for prudence was prompted by my fears?
Can I doubt henceforth in my choosing, if such a choice I must have,
Between being wise and craven or being foolish and brave?

Whenever the weak and weary are ridden down by the strong,
Whenever the voice of honor is drowned by the howling throng,
Whenever the right pleads clearly while the lords of life are dumb,
The times of forbearance are over and the time to strike has come."

(End.)

Democracy and Despotism.

When the war started the Tzar of Russia promised to grant the Polish people their liberty, and the Jews equal civil rights. The great Russian Commander-in-Chief, Duke Nicolas, promised free Ukrainian religion and language in Galicia.

The press of the Allies saluted this wisdom of the Tzar's government and promised such a drastic step as the abolition of persecution of Polish and Jewish peoples. Many English Socialists described therein the advance of Russia towards democracy. But there are many Socialists who cannot believe so easily in this quick transformation of Russian methods.

The present is an opportune time to reconsider certain facts in connection with the Tzar's government.

We learn that when the Russian army took Lemberg in Galicia, the best Polish library was grabbed and transported to Petrograd. All American, Ukrainian, Libertarian went, and the Russian hosts destroyed all the Ukrainian and public buildings, like those of the museum, co-operative and scientific societies, through the capital of East Galicia was taken without bombardment.

In Russia itself, there was no haste to annul the existing abnormal laws against the Jews, and all the Ukrainian (Little Russian) Societies, newspapers, clubs and the like organisations were closed down in the whole Empire. We may comprehend this act of violence only when we know that there are at least 30 million Ukrainians in Russia and in Austria (but four and a half millions in East Galicia and Bukovin).

Think of those missionaries on the battlefields of Galicia, rifle in hand, preaching and abjuring men to have faith in Muscovite gods. At the same time Russian priests are all astir preparing to drag Ukrainians of Galicia from Greek-catholic churches into orthodox heavens. It should be known that the Russian military caste and ruling church commenced preparations for conquering Galicia after the failure in the far East, and during recent years all Galicia was filled with Russian spies and priests glorifying the beneficence of Muscovite rulers.

It only excites derision to talk of Polish or Ukrainian free language in Galicia while the new governor of Galicia proclaims with Asiatic violence that the Country is to be turned absolutely Russian. It is hard to believe in the Tzar's promises of freedom when there are 35 millions of Ukrainians with their mouths closed and seven million Jews without any rights of citizens.

With the annexation of Galicia, East Prussia, and part of Turkey, and the rule of the middle ages, Russia will become the most despotic power in the world.

And if Russian workers as well as Polish and Ukrainian cannot give democratic reforms, there may emerge again a great danger for the workers of the world.

G. PIDDUBURY.

Strange Things.

J. W. ROCHE.

It seems strange—That Christ does not put in an appearance. According to some Theologians he is due or overdue.

That so many people believe in the second coming of Christ; who would scornfully deny the second coming of anyone else.

That individuals should be measured by what they possess instead of what they are.

That even the Capitalist Press should be such a barefaced liar.

That so many believe that any one can get a job that wants one.

That such a fuss should be made about the death of a useless parasite, while the death of thousands of useful workers is not noticed.

That even the Capitalist should consider Capitalism a sane system.

That God does not solve some of the riddles of the Universe.

That such close relations as the Kaiser and King George, should be bitter enemies for the time being.

That Russia should be fighting for "Civilisation."

That General Joffre should so suddenly display all the qualities of a "hero."

That Kaiser Wilhelm and God are so silent concerning each other, of late.

That the patriotic person who gives large sums to the War Fund, should be so callously indifferent to the continual cry of hungry women and children.

That anybody should deny the failure of Christianity in the face of the present European situation.

That witchcraft is still believed in by some educated (?) people.

That so many people seem to think that Liberty is to do as you like and damn the other fellow.

That the average person should consider Priests and Parsons to be anything else than "spellers."

That so-called practical men will keep out of the clutches of the Church spellers, yet they will rush lamb-like into the clutches of the racecourse spellers, and vice versa.

Blatchford. Some Thoughts.

By VOREXUS

A friend of mine, whom I have persuaded to read some Socialist literature, asked me to oblige him by reading Blatchford's "Germany and England." I have just done so, and am greatly surprised to learn that Blatchford is such an ardent fool. Blatchford says, "The downfall of France would be a calamity for civilization." Why didn't he say that when Kitchener—Blatchford's ideal man and "the only one who can save England"—kicked the French out of Fashoda? Had war then arisen between England and France, England would have been only too willing to have brought about that calamity, and would have done it cheerfully.

"If the British people refuse to defend themselves, they will become vassals, and they will have proved that they are unworthy to be anything better." The German working-class are more sober, more orderly, more intelligent than the British, and then he has the colossal ignorance to say that the British must go in for soldiering or accept slavery as an alternative, but in the same chapter, (9) he tells us "I saw no slums in Germany." Now, what I want to know is how can a nation that is better educated, more sober and more intelligent than we are, and sees that it has no slums and no hungry children, make slaves of us if they conquer us and bring us to their level? Perhaps Germany is disgusted with England's eleven million starving people and wants to help them out of their misery. We are told that Germany started this war, then if so, it may not have been with the idea of helping on the British standard of civilization? And the British bulldog is fighting and crushing a nation that has no slums in order to retain their own hovels in Britain!

Blatchford, who wrote his articles "over four years ago," makes a liar of our daily press. He declares that "Germany is now able to turn out 13 Super-Dread-noughts in a year." Well, in Melbourne, the "Age" has been telling us that a British Minister has been saying we can add one per month to our navy but that Germany can add only a few per year. Really Blatchford's book should be rigorously censored.

But Blatchford is delightfully amusing when speaking on the benefits of military training. He says "I have seen coster boys, mill hands, town bred hooligans, ignorant, round-shouldered, pallid, unwashed, and morally loose, come into a regiment, and in six months, they were clean, smart, well conducted, well spoken, well built soldiers." He does not say what made them ignorant and dirty, but never mind. When we come to ponder over the doings of our own soldiers in Melbourne and Egypt, and know that they have been in the army only a few months, we begin to think that it is a very good job they have not been in a regular army for five years. Compulsory military training may work wonders. I think it works blunders. He quite honestly tells us that "it would be advisable also to impose a code of morals, restraints, and safeguards" for the soldiers. Does not compulsory compulsory military training do that? How does it fit in with his "clean, smart, soldiers"? Somehow I think it is very contradictory, and if Mr. Blatchford only knew that at the broadmeadow camp, men are kept to wipe the closet seats after use in order to stop the spread of venereal diseases, he would think hard before he used the word "clean" so freely again.

In one part Blatchford quotes the British aristocracy as saying "The British masses are ignorant, lazy, drunken, etc." Fancy such men as those being degraded by being conquered by a nation that is more sober, more intelligent, more orderly, and that has no slums!

Blatchford wants to know what would happen if we gave India to the Indians, Egypt to the Egyptians etc., etc. If we did he says we would expose them to a greater injury than they now labor under. Again he thinks that if Germany conquered them they would be worse off, but he admits that where Germany rules the people are better educated and more intelligent than we are and what is even greater, will not tolerate slums. Poor Blatchford!

Joe Cook, the squeaking windmill of Liberalism, says "there are two kinds of future before Liberalism—either a possible revival or a possible decay." Possible, but very improbable is any future revival, and as for decay, well, Joe Cook's brand of Liberalism is as dead as Julius Caesar. Another kind has taken its place, but Fisher and Hughes are running it. The only thing that remains for Joe and his party is to openly espouse Toryism.

Mr. Justice Heydon says unemployment is not spreading to any very "alarming extent." It would probably need a vast increase to alarm a man with a constant job at £40 a week.

We depend upon you to increase the number of our subscribers.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Object: The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES,
General Secretary.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

The C. E. meeting on Saturday February 6th, was postponed until Saturday February 13th, when all delegates are requested to attend at 2.30 p. m.

On Friday evening February 5th, a meeting was held at Auburn, at the request of a number of local residents who are desirous of forming a branch. Meetings will be held every Friday evening until further notice. All local comrades are asked to be present so as to render the necessary support to speakers.

LUKE JONES,
Gen. Sec.

A Motor Tour.

Grafton on Sunday is a 'city of the dead,' still there is something to be said for the manner in which the slaves here spend their week-end holiday. Enforced abstinence from debilitating pleasures allow the recuperative agencies to act upon the carcasses of the human bullocks, thus enabling them to return to their masters fit and vigorous for another week's exploitation. Our 'Red Special' party has much to be thankful for because the Hotels and Billiard saloons are closed on Sunday. Anyone who has experienced the energy consuming nature of Wine-tasting and Billiard playing will concur when we state that the Wowsers Sunday is a boon to performers of these tasks. How happy we were to know that this day—Sunday we couldn't lift a cue or be permitted to watch the ivory in their tortuous peregrinations on the green cloth. What a thrill of pleasure fired our frame when it was born upon us that the law prohibited us from looking upon the wine whilst it was red. And so we betook ourselves to the broad flowing Clarence—some to indulge in a refreshing swim—others to drift in an open boat down the river.

Here allow us Mr. Editor to reiterate our firm belief in the strenuous life. We are strenuous in our ease. Even whilst lying on the broad of our back on some shady green near the water's edge we are strenuously thinking. Of course too much mental exercise is not good so after a space—at least ten minutes—we often fall asleep and dream—strenuously. We mustn't say too much about the dreaming part, for of late, our imagination has conjured up visions of monotonous toil, and like most advocates of a principle there are exceptions to our application of the strenuous life principle. We are certainly strenuous in loving, lying, playing, sleeping, talking and drinking but by Peter's Keys we draw the line at working (for a boss) strenuously or even strenuously dreaming about it. Verb Sap. Last Saturday we held our usual meeting and a huge crowd assembled. As a whole they took our anti-patriotism splendidly. A few alcohol imbibing abrutis attempted to impose their beery imperialism upon us but they failed. Sunday night saw us gathered around the Salvation Barmy. One heavenly guide thanked God that many of our brave soldiers were accepting Christ as their savior before entering on the task of cementing the Empire with the blood and bowels of German and Austrian infidels. After the usual copper edge Q requested the Captain's permission to ask a question. Said Q:—"Do the Brothers agree with Brother Drew in his assertion that if a man is converted this gives him license to murder as many Germans as he wishes?" Consternation reigned. Brother Drew denied that he said or meant such a thing and with a final impudently fired at Q he and his cobbles crawled away.

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever. Grafton has its constant joy which takes a concrete form in the shape of a Clock Tower. Built of brick and situate in the main street this monument, commemorating the incorporation of Grafton City, bears the names of past nonentities who for a space wielded the sceptre of Power and laid claim to the title of Mayor. At the base of the eye-sore—I mean Clock Tower is a projecting ledge making an excellent platform for a speaker. Some two hours or so after the brush with the Army and at a time when Grafton citizens are preparing to retire I made a bet with Q that he wouldn't dare to talk for 15 minutes from the Tower's base. He took me. Some few minutes from the end I thought the bet was mine for I glimpsed the form of a limb of law coming hurriedly down the avenue. But the limb only listened and presently walked away. Q won his bet and incidentally did a little propaganda work.

A Comrade named Murphy who at Christmas was down among the Sydney Boys lies in Grafton seriously ill. Q and I paid a

visit to him the other afternoon. Comrade Murphy was keenly disappointed at not being able to help at our meeting. We wish him a speedy recovery and perhaps his luck will be such that on our return journey we shall find him round the stump.
Yours with Carburetter and Sparking Plug.
GEE BEE.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Grafton, Monday, Feb. 8.
Brown and Quinton both summoned for holding meeting and obstructing traffic. To appear on Thursday. Case may be adjourned for a fortnight.—J. Quinton.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

Since our last report, we have had a general meeting of members to discuss Conference decisions, and word has been officially sent to headquarters re our attitude towards same.

The Yarra meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, our propagandists held a fine crowd as usual. We hope to keep these meetings going for there is a lot of raw material to work upon, and as it is the only outdoor meeting we hold it should be the nucleus of a big future movement in Melbourne.

We had a great rally to Sunday Tea at the Hall, Comrades Rooney and A. Zeegan who have not been active amongst us lately for good reasons—graced our family board, and things were quite lively.

In the evening Mrs. Lavender lectured in the Hall, she took for her subject "A Strangled Democracy." The title evidently was a "fetching" one, for the hall was well filled. Mrs. Lavender handled the subject very well though the finish of it brought about some discussion which is usually enjoyed by Socialist audiences.

Monday being a public holiday a number of party members took the opportunity of having a day away from the dust and dirt of the city. A morning train was taken to Blackburn and a very pleasant day was spent; some came back to the hall to the dance and others went home too tired for anything except bed.

I might mention in this report that at the meeting held to discuss Conference decisions, the resignation of J. R. Wilson as Secretary of Melbourne Branch was read and received with regret, and it was resolved to place a minute upon the books marking our appreciation of the good work he has done for the movement here and wishing him success in the future.

A. Gardiner, Secy. Pro Tem.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

A successful meeting was held in the Domain last Sunday, and although there was a drizzling rain a good sale of literature was effected. Mr. Swan spoke in the Hall on "The Church and the Worker."

Next Sunday night Comrade Luke Jones and Mr. Stephens, President of the Single League will debate, in the Hall. This debate should give a thorough exposition of both the Socialist and Single Tax doctrines. Keep a look out for Comrade Mrs. Macdonald's illustrated lecture on the "Panama Canal."

Next Friday night February 12, a Social and Dance will be held in the Socialist Hall 369 Pitt-St. Tickets 6d each.

An outing will be held on Saturday afternoon, February 20th, at Watsons Bay. Meet at Circular Quay at 2.30 p. m. Gipsy Tea, Games, etc., at the Bay. All Members and Friends are invited to come.

L. J. F., Secy. Pro Tem.

NEWTOWN.

Newtown Branch.—Rooms 41 Enmore-Rd., Newtown. Propaganda meetings: Friday evenings, Johnstone-St., Leichhardt. Saturday and Sunday evenings, Newtown Bridge.

PROPAGANDA FIXTURES.

Friday night: Johnstone-St., Leichhardt. Chair: C. Jackson, Speakers: Mrs. Paul, A. Thomas.

Saturday night: Newtown Bridge. Chair: J. Brown, Speakers: C. Jackson, J. Roche.

Sunday night: Newtown Bridge. Chair: W. Page, Speakers: P. O'Connell, J. Roche.

The meeting held at Newtown Bridge on Friday nights is not under the auspices of the above or any other Branch of the A.S.P.
Ray Everitt, Secy.

PRESS AND MAINTENANCE FUND.

L. S. Club £2. Collected at L. S. Club Socials 15s. 11d., Domain Collections 18s. 11d., Gaffin 2s. 6d., J. Kilburn 2s. 6d.

SUBS RECEIVED.

W. Petersen 1s., Mrs. McGregor 2s., J. Cocking 1s., J. Dalsgaard 4s., J. Kilburn 2s., Mrs. Paul 4s., G. Heatley 1s., D. Redkinson 1s., Miss Beaton 1s., M. Beaton 1s., Strauss 1s., J. B. Lachlan 1s., H. Norbury 1s., C. Wright 1s., R. Kohn 1s., W. Martin 1s., Keys 1s., Mrs. Macdonald 1s., O'Brien 1s., G. McAuley 1s., per Ray Everitt 7s. For Subcards, L. Nicholson 1s., J. Gaffin 1s., C. Bell 1s.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

Socialist Orators in Kempsey.

A party of International Socialists arrived in Kempsey last week from Sydney in a Cole motor car belonging to one of the men, and put up at the Royal Hotel. On several evenings they addressed gatherings in Smith Street on various questions of the day, including some reference to the war and what "they are killing each other for." One of the party was an excellent speaker, and would command attention irrespective of his subject. He explained that they were Sydney workers touring the country on a month's holiday. On Saturday evening, whilst addressing a large audience in Belgrave Street, off Smith Street, a part of the town on which there is little or no traffic (except pedestrians) after nightfall, the police stopped the speaker, and he asked for and was allowed five minutes in which to explain the matter to the crowd. The speaker then pointed out that the town band was playing in the streets, and the Salvation Army was conducting its service, and said that no "ignorant policeman" interfered with them. The right of free speech had been illegally taken away. However, they would return later on and show that the police could not constitute themselves judges in that manner. Evidently the Socialists did not know that not long since the local police arrested a street preacher (and let another speaking with him go) and bundled him into gaol, and on Xmas Eve hunted a harmless ene-armed man who was trying to earn a crust honestly by singing patriotic songs in the street.—The Macleay Argus.

"It is very unfortunate the way a section of the public of Australia habitually exaggerate every trouble and difficulty. There is nothing the matter with Australia."—Prime Minister, Andy Fisher. It all depends whether you look at Australia from the window of a slum hovel. If you enjoy a salary of £2000 a year and pickings, Australia will look fine. If, however, you are out of a job, and the time-payment furniture has been seized, and the landlord is expected, and the next meal isn't, then Australia doesn't look such a fine country.

Don't forget the **Social Outing on Sat. Feb. 20.** Meet at Circular Quay at 2.30 p.m.

Economic Warfare

A New Pamphlet by
W. R. WINSPEAR,

(Editor INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST)
68 Pages and Cover.

Economic Warfare is an application of Socialist principles to Australian politics.

It traces the growth of political parties from their inception, and explains the economic interests they represent.

It discusses the early aims and tactics of the Labor Party and shows where it has failed.

Price 3d. Posted 4d.

Special Quotations for 12 Copies or over.
Cash must accompany all orders.

Towards Human Freedom

By J. R. WILSON.

A clear and concise description of the historic battle for human freedom.

Price 1d. Posted 2d.

Special Quotations for Quantities.

Orders for Literature must be accompanied by Cash and be addressed to W. R. Winspear, 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

Printed and published by William Robert Winspear, at 115 Goulburn-St., Sydney, for the Sydney Branch of the Australasian Socialist Party.